

THE MONTANA CONSERVATIONIST

Congratulations to the Gallatin Conservation District on being awarded the National Association of Conservation District's President's Award

The award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will fund the public garden project at their new office. The District shared the video with those that attended the MACD annual convention. Maybe Marcie Murnion will place the video on the [District's website](#) for all to see? Stay tuned!

In This Issue

Page 2	Change in Time for Live Broadcast of Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health Stream's and Transient Storage Areas New Fuel from Plant Waste New NRCS/USFS Partnership Don MacIntyre's Career as a Referee
Page 3	The Origin of Rivers
Page 4	Navigating Water Rights Issues
Page 5	AIS News January 2014's Dust Bowl Ice on the Great Lakes
Page 6	Humanity—How We've Grown!
Page 6	Calendar



Sheridan Conservation District presents their 223 grant application to the RCAC in Great Falls on February 11. Yes, they did get the grant. DNRC awarded more than \$150,000 to Districts this round.



THE MONTANA CONSERVATIONIST

OF INTEREST TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS:

UPDATE: *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) free, live broadcast, of February 18 SARE-sponsored National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health:* Montana is going to pick up the delayed broadcast and **start forums at 10 a.m.** instead of 9:00 a.m. as reported in the last edition of *TMC*. This will give time to provide local information before joining the delayed broadcast at 11 a.m.

Creation of transient storage areas during stream restoration projects help a stream clean itself. Creating

these storage areas to mimic what happens in nature creates zones that host biological and chemical processes that allow for a natural cleansing process. The research project was conducted at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) and Syracuse University. Research results will be important to future planning of stream restoration efforts.

[Read More](#)



ANOTHER NEW FUEL SOURCE? A new fuel similar to gasoline is being manufactured from cellulosic plant materials by researchers at University of California Davis :

This is a relatively new process that has an advantage over the other forms of biofuel being produced - there's no need to displace agriculture crops to produce the product. What also makes this process different is that it does not rely on fermentation. The cellulose does not have to be converted to sugars first before it can be manufactured into the fuel.

[Read More](#)



Natural Resources Conservation Service

announces a multi-year partnership with the United States Forest Service:

The partnership is intended to improve the health and resiliency of forest ecosystems where public and private lands meet across the nation. Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie made the announcement in Helena, near the site of the Red Mountain Flume/Chessman Reservoir. This is one of the first areas that will be addressed by the partnership. [Read](#)

[More](#)



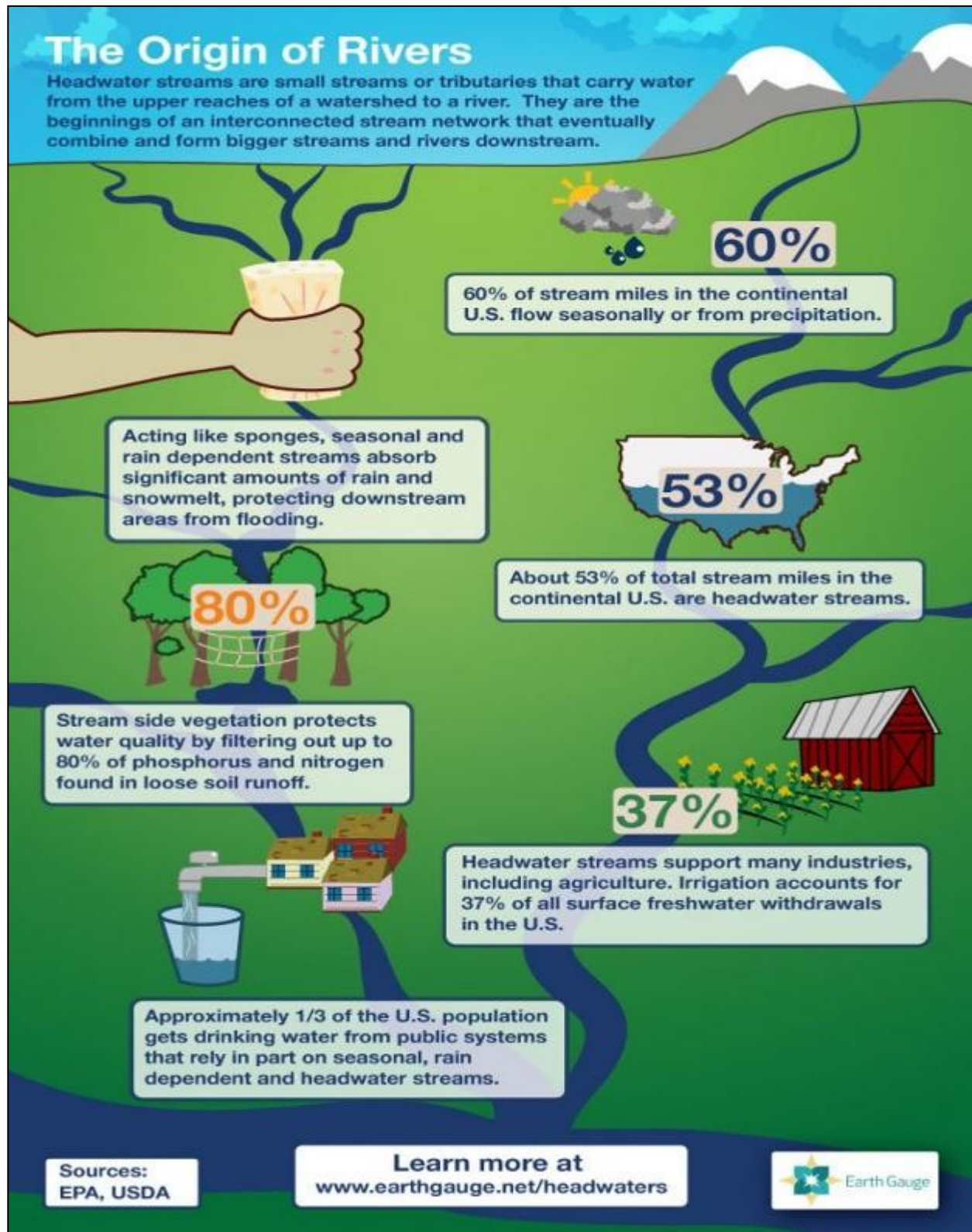
Check out a video featuring our own Don MacIntyre: The [video](#) is from a recent local new story about MacIntyre's career as a referee. He kind of is a referee for the Districts, come to think about it.

[In This Issue](#)

<http://www.macdnet.org/>

THE MONTANA CONSERVATIONIST

What are headwater streams? Many readers probably already know the answer to this question. For those that don't or those that want to know the inter-relationship between a headwater stream and the river it becomes, check out this graphic from the Environmental Protection Agency.



In This Issue

THE MONTANA CONSERVATIONIST

Presented by:



Custer County
Conservation
District



Water Rights: Navigating Water Rights Issues

Thursday, March 13, 2014
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM (9:00-9:30 AM Check-in)
Miles City Community College
Computer Lab—Room 109

Learning topics:

- ♦ **Water Rights and Water Law 101** — What you should know
- ♦ **Updating Water Right Ownership Information**
- ♦ **How to use the Montana Cadastral System**
- ♦ **Searching Existing Water Rights**—using the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)
- ♦ **Well Log Information and filing a 602 Form**
- ♦ **Information available through DNRC Water Resources Division and Water Rights Bureau**

Hands-on computer research and opportunity to ask questions.

Presenters are legal, regulatory and water resource experts.
Registration: \$10.00 (Deadline—March 10, 2014)

Seating is limited -
Materials and lunch included

Drinks: This workshop is being held in a computer lab, only covered drinks are allowed.

What questions would you like addressed during the workshop?

You are welcome to submit questions at time of registration.

For further information on the workshop, contact Nikki Sandve at MT Watercourse
(406) 994-1910 or nsandve@montana.edu

Return this portion along with check (*payable to Montana Watercourse*) to:
Montana Watercourse, PO Box 170570, Bozeman, MT 59717
OR Contact Janet Bender-Keigley at 994-6671 to pay with credit card (MC or VISA).

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Registration Confirmation will be sent by e-mail

[In This Issue](#)

<http://www.macdnet.org/>

PAGE 4

THE MONTANA CONSERVATIONIST

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS

Montana News:

Jefferson/Upper Missouri EWM Planning Meeting ~ A meeting to discuss strategies for EWM management in the Upper Missouri/ Lower Jefferson Rivers will be held on **February 25, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA building in Whitehall.** For more information contact [Craig McLane](#).

AIS Grants Available ~ Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is offering grants for the control of aquatic invasive species. For an application and general information visit [DNRC's website](#). **Grant applications are due March 14, 2014.** Contact [Alicia Stickney](#) (406-444-0547) for additional information.

Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs ~ [Click here](#) for results from the 2013 aquatic plant surveys on lower Clark Fork Reservoirs.

The dust bowl of January 2014:

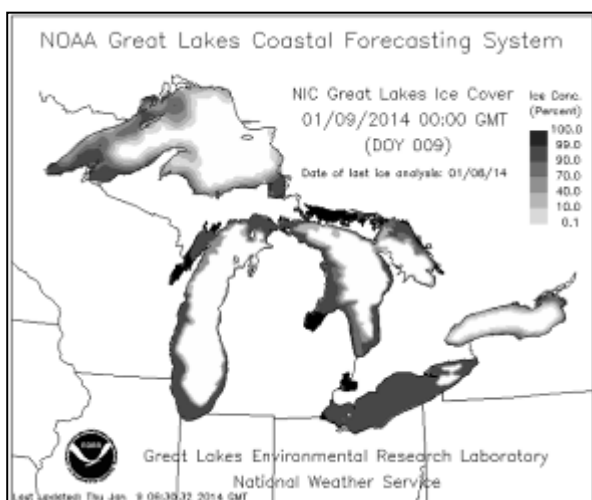
Singer/songwriter Woody Guthrie memorialized the dust bowl in an [album of songs](#) he wrote and published in 1940 called "Dust Bowl Ballads." The lyrics of one of those songs said:

*A dust storm hit, an' it hit like thunder;
It dusted us over, an' it covered us under;
Blocked out the traffic an' blocked out the sun,
Straight for home all the people did run...*

Hmmm...sounds like a rap song for the next convention. This sentiment was brought to mind on January 12 when a storm of dust blew into western Oklahoma's Cimarron County from southeastern Colorado. Cimarron County is the geographic heart of the 1930's Dust Bowl, located in Oklahoma's pan handle bordered by Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. Even though the area received some good moisture last year, there remain pockets of extreme drought where strong, sustained winds can quickly pick up the topsoil. [Read More](#)



Dust storm approaching Stratford, Texas Dust bowl surveying in Texas
Image ID: theb1365, Historic C&GS Collection
Location: Stratford, Texas
Photo Date: April 18, 1935
Credit: NOAA George E. Marsh Album



Winter's storms have one positive effect for Great Lakes: While the eastern half of the nation has been digging out from snow and persistent cold temperatures, the ice has been forming on the world's largest group of freshwater lakes. An analysis by NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory shows that ice covered 78.7 percent of the Great Lakes on February 6. It's been almost 20 years since ice has been that widespread on the Great Lakes. [Read More](#)

[In This Issue](#)

Calendar

February thru March

THE MONTANA CONSERVATIONIST

February 17 ~ President's Day (Holiday)

February 18 ~ NRCS National Conference on Cover Crops & Soil Health

February 22 ~ Washington's Birthday

February 24 ~ MACD Executive Committee Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**443-5711**)

March 4 ~ Mardi Gras

March 5 ~ Ash Wednesday

March 9 ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 10 ~ MACD Conference Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**443-5711**)

March 13 ~ Navigating Water Rights Issues, Miles City Community College, for more information contact [Nikki Sandve](#)

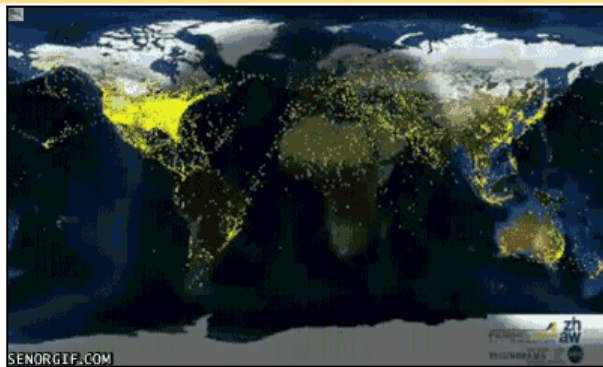
March 17 ~ Saint Patrick's Day

March 24 ~ MACD Executive Committee Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**443-5711**)

March 27 thru 27 ~ 15th Annual Association Of Montana Floodplain Managers Conference, Billings Hotel & Convention Center

More maps about the human existence that speak strait to the heart of map nerds everywhere!

John Fitzgerald Kenney said about humanity that, "Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal." [Click here](#) for a better insight into how our marvelous species moved and continues to move across the world. For those who want to test their knowledge of world issues, [click here](#). This picture from the website is a live view of airline flights around the world over the last 24 hours.



Ever wonder how our cities have grown over the past 100 years?

If so, check out a [website](#) that shows the historical populations of the United States metropolitan areas. The graph and



tables are an attempt to show how the nation's urban hierarchy developed over time. This study included the sub-urban areas surrounding major cities. Throughout history, the size and importance of a city has been affected not only by the "inner" city but those communities that have an impact on the city. (Picture courtesy of [Amazing Stuff](#))



Please send your thoughts as to how to improve **The Montana Conservationist** to

jtiberi@macdnet.org

Unless specifically requested, **The Montana Conservationist** is not sent to CD Supervisors. MACD relies on District Administrators to forward **The Montana Conservationist** to the Board Chair, Supervisors, Associate Supervisors and CD Staff. Thank you.

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